

**UTTOXETER GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL  
CHRONICLE.**

U. G. H. S.

**No. 6.**

**DECEMBER, 1926.**

# Uttoxeter Girls' High School Chronicle.

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"Non uni sed omnibus."

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## THE CHRONICLE COMMITTEE

for the year 1926-27 is as follows :—

Miss Woodhead (President)	I. Critchlow (Sub-editor)
Miss Beck	H. Wood
Miss Walker	K. Babb
S. Harper (Editor)	N. Timmis

A re-election will take place in September, 1927.

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UTTOXETER GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL,  
OCTOBER, 1926.

MY DEAR GIRLS,

This number of the Magazine will appear at the end of my first year with you, and I feel that I cannot sum up the year more fittingly than by voicing yours and my own abiding sense of gratitude to Miss Budgen for the work she did here. This term has been overshadowed by anxiety during Miss Ridley's illness and by grief at her death, and our sympathy goes out to Miss Budgen for the loss of her friend.

School life is for the most part just "one thing after another." and as I look back over the past year I find few extraordinary events to chronicle, though some days do stand out from the background of routine. There are House Tea days when the usual evening silence of the School is broken by the clatterings of Hide-and-Seek up and down the front staircase. There is the School Birthday, which the Prefects organised so admirably and on which we played inexpert cricket with a hockey ball. I believe we all enjoyed that day in our own grounds as much as we should have enjoyed our projected picnic which was prevented by the strike. Then I remember the "As you like it" day when we all got wet so cheerfully and you girls put over your shoulders the carpets meant for your feet. It must sometimes have rained even in the forest of Arden—and we certainly gave the actors a taste of the "winter and rough weather" about which they sang.

When this is published Christmas will be in sight, and our heads will be full of plays and parties. We must not, however, forget our Magazine. Remember that is the voice of the School and that we want it to be a fitting record both of your doings and of your original work. It is for you all to see that it is.

Yours affectionately,

H. WOODHEAD,



## EDITORIAL.

THE task of editing this Magazine having devolved upon our shoulders it is with many a qualm that we contemplate our handiwork. This task would have been made considerably easier had we received more voluntary contributions (our ingenuous conception of an editorial staff half-buried beneath a pile of manuscripts has been heartlessly shattered), but after making several tours round the School we have managed to unearth some literary talent. We found our contributors exceedingly shy, but by exercising our persuasive powers we conveyed to them that the impression one received on seeing one's name in print was by no means displeasing. In this way we have collected and printed as many original compositions as we possibly could, and we sincerely hope that the Magazine will not prove disappointing to its readers.

An editor's life has been a new experience for us; we found it one of many surprises, of many thrills and too many disappointments. But whatever degree of success or failure we attain we shall always regard with a feeling of pride our efforts in this issue.

THE EDITORS.

## GAMES.—HOCKEY.

THE new hockey pitch was used for the first time, and more matches were played.

The season's results were :—

Oct. 10th.	Orme Girls' School, Newcastle	(Away)	Lost 6—3
„ 17th.	Ashbourne Grammar School	(Away)	Drew 7—7
„ 24th.	Derby High School	(Away)	Won 5—4
Nov. 14th.	Leek High School	(Home)	Lost 3—1
Feb. 27th.	Orme Girls' School	(Home)	Lost 8—2
Mar. 8th.	Derby High School	(Home)	Won 3—2
„ 13th.	Leek High School	(Away)	Lost 2—0
„ 20th.	Ashbourne Grammar School	(Home)	Drew 4—4
„ 26th.	Old Girls	(Home)	Won 3—1

The School XI. consisted of :—(G.) G. Phillips; (R.B.) I. Critchlow; (L.B.) D. Langton; (R.H.) M. Archer; (C.H.) N. Ford; (L.H.) F. Bull; (R.W.) M. Price; (R.I.) N. Taylor; (C.F.) K. Babb; (L.I.) H. Wood; (L.W.) B. Prince.

The following girls scored goals for the School :—K. Babb 18; H. Wood 4; B. Prince 2; N. Taylor 2; F. Bull 1; M. Archer 1.

Colours were awarded to D. Langton, N. Ford, M. Archer.

The result of the Inter-House matches in the Spring Term was :—1. Apollo, 2. Mars, 3. Neptune, 4. Jupiter.



## TENNIS.

Only one outside match was played—against Ashbourne Grammar School on our courts, the School six winning by nine matches to love. The School team was :—

1. K. Babb and N. Timmis.
2. G. Phillips and F. Walker.
3. F. Bull and M. Archer.

A House Tournament was played at the end of Term. The House couples were :—

- |          |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| Apollo.  | K. Babb and N. Timmis.      |
| Jupiter. | G. Phillips and M. Price.   |
| Mars.    | B. Prince and I. Critchlow. |
| Neptune. | F. Bull and M. Archer.      |

Each match consisted of fifteen games and the final result was :—

- |    |             |           |
|----|-------------|-----------|
| 1. | Apollo      | 30 games. |
| 2. | { Jupiter } | 27 games. |
|    | { Neptune } |           |
| 4. | Mars        | 6 games.  |

## SPORTS.

THE Annual Sports were held on May 6th, at 2 p.m. This year for the first time a Cross-Country Race was run, and although a few competitors dropped out owing to fatigue, it proved to have an exciting finish when F. Bull came in first, and again carried away the fiat-racing laurels.

M. Chell, of Neptune House, who has already won the Junior Championship for two years running, this year won the Senior Championship, obtaining 35 points in all. K. Babb was runner-up with 32 points.

The Junior Championship was won by Frances Bull with 29 points, R. Allport being runner-up with 21 points.

As usual the Senior and Junior High Jump had a very close finish, the Senior being won by K. Babb and M. Chell (drawn), the Junior by D. Mayfield. The Long Jump Senior was won by K. Babb, the Junior by Frances Bull.

The House Relay Race results were as follows :—Neptune first; Apollo second; Jupiter third; Mars fourth.

Mrs. Knights Smith kindly distributed the prizes.

G. PHILLIPS.



## SCHOOL NOTES.

### THE GENERAL BEARING PRIZE

was won in the Autumn Term, 1925, by Form VI. It was not awarded in the Spring and Summer Terms.

### FULL PREFECTS AND HOUSE PREFECTS.

In the Autumn Term, these were as follows:—

Head Girl: F. Bull.  
 In Apollo: D. Langton (full); B. Wibberley, M. Bull.  
 In Jupiter: M. Price (full); S. Harper (on probation); G. Phillips.  
 In Mars: I. Critchlow, B. Prince (full); M. Papworth.  
 In Neptune: F. Bull, A. Harris, H. Wood (full).

In the Spring Term, 1926:—

M. Archer, W. Brown, M. Bull, M. Papworth, G. Phillips, N. Timmis were made prefects on probation; S. Harper became a full prefect.

In the Summer Term, 1926:—

M. Hall, M. Parker were made prefects on probation; M. Archer, W. Brown, M. Bull, M. Papworth became full prefects.

### AUTUMN TERM, 1925.

OCTOBER 15TH.—Prize Giving was held in the Town Hall.

NOVEMBER 5TH.—A School party went to an Uttoxeter Education Association lecture on "Plant Hunting in Tibet." The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides taken in Tibet itself.

NOVEMBER 24TH.—A School party visited Denstone College to see "Richard II."

A music examination was held for Miss Malvern's pupils.

DECEMBER 11TH.—Apollo and Mars Houses performed "The Rivals" (Sheridan) before the School. At the end of the play a presentation was made to Miss Budgen by the School.

DECEMBER 15TH.—A debate was held, the motion being "That the thinker is of more use to the world than the man of action."

DECEMBER 16TH.—Mr. Tennant gave a lecture on "Etchings and Engravings" with the aid of lantern slides.

DECEMBER 17th.—In the morning carols were sung by the School, and art, handwork and Christmas cakes were shewn in the Assembly Hall.

In the afternoon and evening the Christmas Party and Old Girls' Reunion was held together with the Old Girls' Society Annual Meeting.



## SPRING TERM.

JANUARY 12TH.—Many of the girls went to "Red Gables" to cheer Miss Budgen when she went away.

FEBRUARY 4TH.—Mr. A. Robertson of the Gramophone Company gave a lecture on "Musical Appreciation."

FEBRUARY 24TH.—A concert was given by Miss Legge's String Quartet.

## SUMMER TERM.

MAY 6TH.—The School Sports were held.

JUNE 5TH.—The School took part in the League of Nations' Section of the Uttoxeter Carnival, and each House won a prize. Apollo represented Spain; Jupiter, Holland; Mars, Japan; and Neptune, Roumania.

JUNE 10TH.—The Ben Greet Company gave "As you like it" in the School garden.

JUNE 29TH.—The School Birthday was held in the School grounds.

JULY 9th.—A French competition was held by Miss Alison. The prize, which was awarded by Miss Woodhead, was won by Form VI.

JULY 10TH.—The Singing Examination was held. Although we did not reach our highest expectations in our singing we felt that a good standard had been reached.

JULY 12TH.—This year the drill competition was judged by Miss McMinn, of Bedford Physical Training College. The final result (including team races) was:—1st Neptune; 2nd Jupiter; 3rd Mars; 4th Apollo.

The House gardens were judged this year, taking into consideration design or method of planting, absence of weeds, and number of varieties grown. The contest was very close: Neptune won the cup for the third time in succession, Apollo second, while Jupiter and Mars tied for the third place.

This year prizes were presented: by Miss Budgen, one for general proficiency; Mrs. Eckersley, two for domestic science; and Mr. Mellor one for geography.

## HOUSE NEWS.

### APOLLO.

AUTUMN TERM, 1925.—Miss Gibson was a House Mistress for the Term.

Mars invited us to tea and we discussed the parts for "The Rivals."



We gave the play at the end of the Term—Miss Gibson being stage manager.

Miss Minna Beck and Miss Gibson left us at the end of the Term.

SPRING TERM, 1926.—We won the Hockey Cup. D. Langton and N. Ford gained hockey colours.

SUMMER TERM: *Sports*.—Several girls won prizes, and K. Babb was runner-up for the Senior Championship Cup.

TENNIS.—K. Babb and N. Timmis represented Apollo at the Inter-House Tournament and won the Tennis Cup.

We were runners-up for the Garden Cup. We won the Shield. M. BULL.

### JUPITER.

AUTUMN TERM, 1925.—Miss Shaw came to the School as our House Mistress.

We were invited to a performance of "The Rivals."

SPRING TERM, 1926.—The House Matches were played. Result: we were fourth.

Neptune House asked us to tea and games.

SUMMER TERM, 1926.—On June 5th the Uttoxeter Carnival was held. We won the first prize for a Dutch Tableau in the League of Nations' Section.

The House Tennis Tournaments were held, and we tied with Neptune for the second place.

The House gardens were judged.

Miss Shaw left at the end of the Term.

MURIEL PRICE.

### MARS.

AUTUMN TERM, 1925.—A party was arranged for Mars and Apollo to discuss "The Rivals." The play was performed at Christmas and was a great success.

SPRING TERM.—In the House Matches Mars was second—we beat Jupiter, tied with Neptune and lost to Apollo.

SUMMER TERM.—Frances Bull won the Junior Sports Championship.

Mars was third with Jupiter in the House Garden Competition.

In the Tennis Championship the House was fourth.

In the Drill Competition the House was third.

In the Carnival the House represented Japan and won the third prize.

I. CRITCHLOW.



## NEPTUNE.

AUTUMN TERM, 1925.—Miss Windrow became one of our House Mistresses.

One evening the House invited Miss Beck and Miss Windrow to tea.

At the end of Term we had the pleasure of seeing "The Rivals" performed by Apollo and Mars.

SPRING TERM, 1926: *Hockey*.—We had some very exciting matches, losing v. Apollo, drawing with Mars and winning v. Jupiter. Result:—We tied with Mars for second place.

One evening we invited Jupiter to tea.

SUMMER TERM, 1926: *Sports*.—We won the Relay Race. Mary Chell won the Senior Championship Cup.

*Carnival*.—Our dray represented Roumania and won the second prize.

*Tennis*.—In the House Tournament we tied with Jupiter for second place.

*Drill*.—We were delighted to win the Cup and enjoyed Miss McMinn's classes in the afternoon.

*Gardening*.—We won the Cup.

At the end of Term we were very sorry to have to say "good-bye" to Amy Harris and Mary Archer.

F. M. BULL.

## GIRL GUIDES

(1st Uttoxeter Company.)

THE past year 1925-26 has been a busy one for Guides. During the year we have had seven recruits, our company now numbering seventeen.

In the Autumn Term we had two tracking expeditions, and girls worked for Tenderfoot, Second Class and proficiency badges.

The annual examinations took place in February, when badges were won for Sportswoman, Artist, Cook, Child Nurse and Sick Nurse.

On February 12th three of us went to a Guides' Training Evening, which we enjoyed very much.

The great event of the year was the competition for the Divisional Shield, which is held every two years. The rally, when the competitors were judged, was held in the Town Hall on June 12th. The competition was in four parts:—

1. A nature diary for April and May.
2. A display of physical exercises.
3. A knot competition.
4. An original play based on one of the Guide laws.



The shield was presented by Mrs Wardle to Stramshall, the winning company who had 83 marks; company I. were the runners-up with 80 marks. During the year Miss Beck very kindly presented us with a carrier for the Company colours, and this was used for the first time at the Rally.

P. B. W. (Capt.).

## PRIZE GIVING, 1925.

**T**HE Prize Giving was held in the Town Hall on October 15th. In the morning we were very disappointed to hear that the doctor would not allow Miss Budgen to be present.

Miss McCrea, the Headmistress of Stafford High School, came to give away the prizes, and Miss Powell presided over the gathering.

The Vicar read Miss Budgen's report and voiced the general feeling of sorrow at Miss Budgen's resignation. Miss McCrea, Miss Powell and Sir Graham Balfour all paid high tribute to Miss Budgen's work among us.

During the afternoon the School sang: "Where the bee sucks," by Arne and Jackson; "The Blacksmith," by Johannes Brahms; "My Mother bids me bind my hair," by Haydn; and "A Spring Day," by A. E. Horrocks.

Cheers were given for Miss McCrea, Miss Powell and the Governors, Sir Graham Balfour and Miss Budgen.

Afterwards the visitors were entertained to tea at the Hall.

The Prize List was as follows:—

FORM PRIZES.—II.: R. Allport. III.b: R. Adams. III.a: English, N. Beck; Arithmetic and Science, N. Beck; Languages, M. Howlett. IV.b: English, G. Hambleton; Science and Mathematics, M. Cotterill; Languages, M. Martin. IV.a: English, N. Taylor; Science and Mathematics, N. Land; Languages, M. Prince. V.b: English, S. Harper; Science and Mathematics, E. Pattinson; Languages, M. Bull. V.a: English, I. Critchlow; Mathematics, D. Langton; Languages, B. Prince. VI.: Languages, F. Bull.

SCRIPTURE PRIZES.—Junior, Fr. Bull; Senior, W. Brown.

MUSIC PRIZE (presented by Miss Malvern).—M. Archer.

NEEDLEWORK PRIZE.—M. Prince.

COOKERY PRIZE.—W. Burrows.

DRAWING PRIZE.—Junior, G. Hambleton; Senior, M. Bull.

SCOTT PRIZE (presented by Miss Powell).—Junior, M. Bull; Senior, I. Critchlow.

LOCAL HISTORY PRIZE (presented by the Old Girls' Society).—B. Wibberley.



DRILL BADGE.—M. Archer.

HOUSE AWARDS.—Garden Cup, Neptune; Drill Cup, Apollo; Hockey Cup, Apollo; Tennis Cup, Apollo.

HOUSE SHIELD.—Apollo.

### EXAMINATION RESULTS, 1926.

CAMBRIDGE SCHOOL CERTIFICATE.—Honours: H. Wood, with Distinction in Geography; At Matriculation Standard: S. Harper; Passed: M. Bull, E. Pattinson, P. Webster, D. Langton.

ASSOC. BOARD R.A.M. AND R.C.M.—Intermediate Theory: F. Bull; Higher Division: M. Archer, M. Redden; Elementary: J. Read, J. Underwood.

ROYAL DRAWING SOCIETY.—Division I.: 6 Honours, 5 Passes; II.: 4 Honours, 6 Passes; III.: 2 Honours, 2 Passes; IV.: 2 Passes.

LONDON INSTITUTE OF NEEDLEWORK.—Grade II.: 2 Very Good, 1 Good; III.: 2 Very Good, 2 Good; IV.: 1 Very Good, 1 Very Fair; V.: 1 Very Good, 1 Good.

### "THE RIVALS."

On Dec. 11th, the School was invited to a performance of "The Rivals," which was given by members of Apollo and Mars.

The play began at 6 p.m., and all eyes were fixed on the stage, waiting for the curtain—or rather the "wall"—to rise. At last the longed-for moment came. The first scene was in Mrs. Malaprop's lodgings, and we soon began to laugh at her very clever Malapropisms. We loved to hear her descriptions of the "proper" girl and how she was going to learn the "Geometry of the contagious countries." All agreed that there was not a "superstitious article in it!"

Another delightful scene was the one in which Sir Lucius O'Trigger was preparing Bob Acres for a "quietus."

Between the third and fourth acts a presentation was made to Miss Budgen, after which three hearty cheers were given by the School for her.

A collection having been taken, the play proceeded, or as Mrs. Malaprop would have said: "preceded."

The performers were admirably suited to their parts, and the play went without a hitch.

The end came all too soon, and we all returned home after having thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

"The Rivals" was performed the following evening for visitors.

MURIEL PRICE.



## THE CHRISTMAS PARTY.

OUR Annual Christmas Party was held on Thursday, December 17th. This year it proved to be a real re-union, for there was a record number of Old Girls present. As usual, the School had been decorated with brightly coloured streamers and evergreens, so that it bore quite a festive appearance.

The members of the Lower School came at 4 o'clock as the guests of Miss Budgen. They had a very jolly time, and after tea they all gathered in the Assembly Room, in the middle of which was a huge Christmas tree lighted with numerous little candles and bearing a gift for each child.

The Upper School came at 6 o'clock. There were dancing in the Assembly Room and games in the class-rooms. A wireless set had been installed in the Sixth Form Room for those who did not wish to dance or play games.

During the evening a short Old Girls' Meeting was held in V.a room.

There were so many of us this year that we wound through V.b room, the front hall, and right round the Assembly Room when, at the end, we all joined hands to sing "Auld Lang Syne."

BESSIE PRINCE.

## "AS YOU LIKE IT."

THIS year, June 10th, the Ben Greet Players performed "As you like it" in the garden. Given a warm, sunshiny day, this setting would have been perfect, but unfortunately the "clerk of the weather" decreed that it should be not only cold but wet. In spite of the threatening condition of the sky, Ben Greet, who was anxious to utilise the ideal surroundings, decreed that the garden should be used, and thus half of the play was acted outside, until a thundery downpour made it impossible to continue. The scene was then transferred to the Grammar School Hall, a less idyllic spot but decidedly warmer and drier. The unpleasant weather did not affect the spirits of the players, for they acted with as much enthusiasm, and appeared as happy, out in the sleet and rain as in the more comfortable shelter of a Hall.

The whole play was thoroughly enjoyed by everybody, and the acting of all the players was very much appreciated; but the universal favourite was, I think, Miss Thea Johnstone, who took the part of Rosalind. Orlando was another favourite, and last, but by no means least, was Touchstone played by Ben Greet himself. The happy comedy held everyone's attention from beginning to end, and was, I think, even more delightful than Twelfth Night, which was performed last year.

I. CRITCHLOW.



## THE SCHOOL BIRTHDAY.

THE School Birthday—June 29th—was celebrated at School this year, everyone wearing roses. We sang the School hymn, No. 165, at prayers, after which Miss Woodhead gave us a short address and read a telegram from Miss Budgen and Miss Ridley, telling us that they were wearing roses. In the afternoon we played games, and cricket on the playing field. The cricket, however, was not such a success as it would have been had there been more time. A tennis tournament was held in which many of the Old Girls took part. The winners of the tournament were Miss Walker and M. Papworth, who were presented with small prizes, given by the prefects. During the afternoon we had tea, arranged by Miss Covington and served by the prefects. Altogether, we spent a very enjoyable afternoon. We decided to give the School a number of pictures for a birthday present.

W. BROWN.

## OLD GIRLS' SOCIETY.

THE Meeting for the Autumn Term was held on December 17th, the evening of the Social Re-union.

The Secretary and the Treasurer were re-elected, and it was proposed that four House Secretaries, each elected by the House, should in future form part of the Committee. The election took place later, and the following members hold office until autumn, 1926: Miss H. Tatlow, Apollo; Miss K. Hardy, Mars; Miss K. Orme, Jupiter; Miss G. Marsh, Neptune.

Miss Budgen was elected Vice-President of the Society.

It was proposed that the Society should give the prize this year for a paper on the History of Staffordshire.

It was further proposed that a Hockey match should be arranged between Old Girls and Present Girls, and that it should be an annual event. Miss Winifred Sheppard was chosen as captain by the Old Girls.

Miss K. Hardy, Miss G. Marsh and Miss K. Tibbits were elected as Tea Committee for the coming year.

The Meeting for the Spring Term was held on March 18th. After tea Miss Woodhead read the rules of the Society, and various points were discussed.

It was decided that the members of the Committee should be elected at the Autumn Meeting rather than by post, as had been suggested.

Mrs. Ward, Miss Tatlow and Miss M. Beck were elected to set the paper on the History of Staffordshire, and to correct it.



Afterwards a musical programme was provided by members of the Society.

On the School Birthday, June 29th, we were glad to welcome a larger number of Old Girls than usual at prayers, and we hope that many more will join with us next year. This year, as last, we celebrated the Birthday in the School grounds.

A. BECK.

### OLD GIRLS' NEWS.

Marjorie Wilks writes: "Perhaps you will be interested to know what one of the Old Girls is doing out in South Africa. For a couple of months before Christmas I was managing a chemist's business in Pretoria, but was then fortunate enough to obtain a Government position as dispenser in the Durban Hospital. The work is very interesting, and the hours are from 9 to 4.30, with an hour for lunch, which is provided; we have six weeks' annual holiday and railway fare. One girl who was at College with me in London is now dispensing in the Johannesburg Hospital, and so far as I can hear, we are the only two lady pharmacists who hold Government positions."

Florence M. Greeves has obtained B.Sc. Hons., Botany, Durham University.

Kathleen Forrester is Drill and Games Mistress at Wincham Hall, Lostock Gralam, Cheshire.

### CAMP.

ON August 17th we began our exciting Camp holiday by catching a 7.30 a.m. train. We reached Grindleford just in time for dinner, and found that we were the first to arrive, so we settled down in the campers' sitting room and watched the other campers come, and wondered which of them would be in our dormitories. The school where we slept was situated half-way up a hillside, which overlooked the valley of the Derwent. As we got up in the morning we could see the village in the valley down below, and at night all the lights twinkled and glowed at the windows. Sometimes a car passed up the road, and its lights made a circle of light round it, making it look as though it was all alone in the darkness.

We had eleven officers, known to us as: Ass.-song, Sing-song, Gymes, Gambells, Jo, Orderly, Sord, Rambles, House-mother and Adj., and we never knew their proper names.

We went for a ramble each day unless it rained, and we took our dinner with us so that we could picnic.

One day we went for a long excursion, which was to end by our going to the Peak Cavern. It was a glorious day, and some of



the most energetic of us walked by the side of the Derwent to the next station, where we joined the others. We went by train as far as Hope, and from here we walked to the Peveril of the Peak, where we had our dinner. After we had had a rest, we trudged on to the Peak Cavern. We started by walking down 105 steps. When we reached the bottom we stepped into two boats. Two men pushed these boats along by moving their hands along the ceiling, and if we moved we either bumped our heads on the side or on the roof. This tunnel had been cut by men who had hoped that they would find lead, but they had been unsuccessful. After going along in this way for about half-a-mile the boat at last stopped and we all clambered out, to find that we were on a ledge and below was what is called the bottomless pit, and above us was what seemed to be space, the cavern was so high. No one spoke while we were on the ledge—it was so awe-inspiring, but as soon as we were in the tunnel again we all seemed to talk at once. It was so cold in the tunnel that we wished we had heavy coats on, but when we reached the top the air seemed stifling, and by the time we reached Hope station again we were all very tired.

The next day we went to see the sheep-dog trials at Hope, and we were all struck by the stupidity of the sheep and the cleverness of the dogs.

Every other day was just as interesting as these two, and our holiday ended all too soon. It happened that although we arrived first we were also to go the first, and most of the other campers came to the station to see us off, and as the train moved out they sang the camp war-cry.

Altogether, we had a glorious time, and we are already looking forward to our next camp holiday.

K. BABB, I. LUNN, J. BABB.

### “A PIECE OF REALLY GOOD ENGLISH PROSE.”

THERE was a “Chronicle” Committee Meeting held on Oct. 13th. I advise everyone to keep far apart from members of any committee till some time after their meeting. I speak from experience, having been taught in a hard school.

In the morning of Oct. 14th I was still unwise, and I allowed myself to meet the Editor. She said: “We want you to write something for the ‘Chronicle.’” I said: “Now, my dear, if I were a poet . . .” She said: “You mean a poetess, but we have poetry. What we want is ‘a piece of really good English Prose.’” Now I often happen to want the Editor to do something for me, and I should be terribly shocked if she refused. So I began



to think, and I thought and I thought, but I could find no subject suited for expression in "really good English Prose."

Quite recently I have been surprised to see very fine pieces of prose written about things which seem to ordinary people like myself quite void of inspiration. Here is one about an easy chair: "Each day must go on bringing its own trials. Other people's tempers; other people's elbows! A fight to get on the tram-car or the 'bus. A long queue outside the theatre. In a hard world the — chair is very soft. Amid all the noise it is perfectly silent. In a shallow age it's very deep. It simply isn't in the modern movement at all. It stays at home and keeps the fire warm. It is built not for speed but for comfort."——And that's the spirit with which you should greet your arm chair in the evening! Now when I'm sitting on hard wood I can understand this enthusiasm, but what about this description of a pair of shoes: "Their youth is not raw and their old age is never seedy. They came into your life seasoned and mellow, strong and yet subdued. At long last they will be your veterans, scarred and stained and weathered with much serving. Yet will their old age be kindly and comely and serviceable?"

I suppose Bacon would have called such passages "the shadow of a lie." Let them be so if they help us to see what is commonplace with kindly eyes. With this thought in your mind I hope you are prepared to tell my friend, the Editor, that she has won from me "a piece of really good English Prose!"

F. M. BULL.

## HAREBELLS.

ONCE upon a time when King Oberon and Queen Titania reigned in Fairyland there lived a mischievous little elfin named Zephano. He loved to ride about the woods on a baby hare, and often he took fairy passengers from place to place. He was the fairy who looked after the breezes and the fairy flowers.

Now at the gates of Fairyland there lived a little gnome who was the queen's watchman. It was his business to watch at the gates and write down in the royal pocket-book the name of every fairy who passed in after a day's frolic. Zephano was always so very late in coming back that Brighteyes, the watchman, had fallen asleep before he arrived. Zephano had to creep softly into the watchman's tiny home, and write his name in the book, while the little gnome slept.

Zephano had a great friend named Puck, and one evening he had stayed so long helping Puck to catch glowworms on the



moor, that it was growing dusk before he arrived at the gates of Fairyland.

On this evening Brighteyes had resolved to keep awake until Zephano came. He waited and watched until dusk. He was dreamily looking around him when he noticed a crowd of little mauve flowers peering out of the grass. He wondered if Zephano had put them there. It was strange that he had never noticed them before. He walked across the path and touched one; the little flower tossed her head. Brighteyes crept back to his place and listened.

Suddenly on the stillness of the air he heard a soft tinkle, tinkle, tinkle, which grew louder and louder, and then round the bend of the corner came Zephano, riding on his hare, with a dainty mauve breeze flying after him, and as he brushed past the little mauve bells, they tinkled softly.

Ever since that night the little bell-flowers have been called harebells, and often, when a hare darts past a harebell, that shy little flower nods her head, but you can never hear her tinkle, except when Zephano is passing.

MARY BULL.

### EVENTIDE.

I stood at dusk upon the shore  
And gazed toward the west,  
The drowsy music of the sea  
Crooned nature all to rest.

It was the time that mermaids come  
And sing their sweetest lays;  
On seabound rocks, on summer nights,  
Their songs of love they raise.

I turned to go unwillingly  
When sunset light had died  
For here I breathed, I saw and felt  
The Peace of Eventide.

Behind, the hills rose dark and still,  
Like sentinels they seemed  
To guard the little seaside town  
That in the valley dreamed.

I looked once more across the sea  
Now rapt in night's pale mist,  
A gentle wind so light and soft  
The sleeping wavelets kissed.

BESSIE PRINCE.

### THE LONGTON 'BUS.

THE sun shone bright one summer's  
day  
And all the world was glad and gay,  
Yet we were sad; our Longton 'bus  
Had travelled far away from us;  
For it had almost broken down  
And was no good for Longton Town.

Its metal works had grown quite cold,  
'Twas like a human growing old.  
Its pace so feeble and so slow,  
It went not as it wished to go.  
This 'bus on which we loved to ride  
Seemed to have lost all hope and pride.

Like an old steed that leaves the wars,  
It wandered from Staffs' busy stores  
Till in the country it found rest,  
And while its metal works were dressed  
It dreamed of life upon the roads,  
Of jolly rides with happy loads.

And now along the dusty track,  
With country folk upon its back,  
By woods and streams and fields of corn  
The laughing, happy, loads are born,  
By the Longton 'bus that wouldn't die  
Without just having one more try.

A. L. V. b.



## THE WATERFALL.

OVER the rocks see the water come dashing!  
 Hear it murmur and sing,  
 Hear it tinkle and ring.  
 See it drop joyously, gurgling and splashing,  
 Like galloping chargers with sparkling teeth gnashing!  
 They leap and they frolic, with iron hoofs clashing,  
 And white flowing manes which they restlessly fling.

G. HAMBLETON.

## THE BEECH TREE.

THE beech tree once was clothed in  
 green  
 In brown and gold and red,  
 'Twas then in all its glory seen  
 But now 'tis bare and dead.

The leaves no more will open out  
 Or change from green to brown,  
 At autumn time be blown about  
 To tumble gaily down.

Still gaunt and grim the beech tree  
 stands,  
 Its branches black and bare  
 Awaving to and fro like hands  
 Clutching the empty air.

No bird will ever in it build  
 Or twitter on a bough;  
 The branch where often he has trill'd  
 Is quite forsaken now.

I. LUNN.

## THE ROBIN.

WHEN father brings his spade to dig,  
 Then robin comes along  
 And sits upon a little twig  
 And sings a little song.

But if the trees are rather far,  
 He does not stay alone,  
 But sings his little tra-la-la  
 Upon a little stone.

D. PAULSON.

## MARRIAGES.

AVERILL—WALKER. January 20th, at St. Mary's Church Uttoxeter, by the Rev. L. Knights Smith, Wilfrid Henry Averill, only son of Mr. F. T. and Mrs. Averill, Checkley Bank Farm, to Annie Mabel, daughter of the late Mr. F. H. Walker, and of Mrs. Walker, 40, Carter Street, Uttoxeter.

BERESFORD-SMITH—WATSON. May 24th, at St. Michael's Church, Rocester, by the Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of Lichfield, the Rev. James Beresford-Smith, Assistant Diocesan Chaplain, to Kathleen Mary, second daughter of the late Stephen Watson, of the Old Hall, Doveridge, Derby, and of Mrs. Watson, of The Rookery, Rocester.

## DEATH.

RIDLEY. On October 7th, Violet Cowell Ridley, daughter of the late Lionel H. Ridley, and of Mrs. J. H. Cooper, of Summerfield, Caversham, aged 28.



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